

Minutes of School Committee Meeting 10/22/2014

A regular meeting of the Barrington School Committee was held on Thursday, October 22, 2014, in the Administration Building. Mrs. Brody called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. Present were Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, Dr. Shea, Ms. Schwartz, Mr. Messore, Mrs. Dillon and Mr. Tarro. Absent were Dr. Dominguez and Mr. Fuller.

Mrs. Kate Brody introduced School Committee members present at the meeting: Student Representative Ms. Lucina Schwartz, Mr. Patrick Guida, and Dr. Robert Shea. Dr. Paula Dominguez and Mr. Scott Fuller were absent. Mrs. Brody also introduced the Administration and Central Office Staff: Superintendent Mr. Michael Messore, Director of Curriculum and Instruction Mrs. Paula Dillon, Director of Administration and Finance Mr. Ronald Tarro, and Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent Mrs. Elizabeth Levesque.

Pledge of Allegiance

Dr. Andrew Anderson, Barrington Middle School Principal, led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Achievement Recognition

Mr. Messore congratulated Hampden Meadows Grade 5 student Audrey Falkner for winning the PTO sponsored Chromebook contest for summer reading and math.

BPS Spotlight on Teaching and Learning

Mr. Messore introduced Mrs. Kristen Matthes, Special Education Teacher, Mrs. Megan Medeiros, Grade 8 Math Teacher, and Mrs. Cara Sanchez, Instructional Coach and Enrichment Specialist, who provided information on the K-12 Math Night held on October 16, 2014 at Barrington Middle School. At the event, parents had the opportunity to learn more about the vertical articulation of the K-12 Math curriculum from teachers and gain additional tools and resources to support students at home. Mrs. Matthes also shared parent feedback that was obtained from exit slips at the event. Mr. Guida noted the opportunity through these types of events to continue to articulate what standards are in practice throughout the district, to help ease parent concerns as well as inform the entire community.

Information and Proposals

Mr. Messore provided an update on the process for the evaluation of programs which includes the evaluation of enrollment, course offering and assignment, examination of data of program effectiveness, as well per pupil expenditures and student teacher ratios. Next steps include assessing district processes and building networks throughout the country. Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro will attend the District Management Council's Leadership Development Meeting, *Boosting Performance Cost-Effectively: Achievement Value Analysis* on November 6-7, 2014 in Boston. Questions and discussion on the update centered on metrics for student learning, course scheduling, and building a strong infrastructure based on analysis.

Mr. Joseph Hurley, Barrington High School Principal, provided a brief overview of the expanding internship program and the related changes in the program schedule at Barrington High School. As it is early in the school year, Mr. Hurley suggested an update be provided to the Committee by Mr. Matthew Vonderheide, Barrington High School Business Teacher, in the spring. Mr. Guida reiterated his interest in the district exploring an International Baccalaureate (IB) program. Mr. Messore talked of his initial discussions on a partnership with Bryant University on an IB program. Mr. Hurley added that Barrington High School, now an official ACT test site, will administer the first ACT offering on October 25, 2014.

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Mrs. Dillon reported that the district's Science NECAP scores are not currently available for review. The initial scores received by the Rhode Island Department of Education (RIDE) included anomalies and RIDE has decided to do a deeper review of all district scores with Measured Progress, the provider of state accountability assessments. Mr. Guida added that Commissioner Deborah Gist has stated that further investigation will continue until the level of confidence with analysis of the scores is achieved by RIDE. No date has been determined for when the scores will be released by RIDE. Mrs. Brody noted the issue that occurred a number of years ago with regard to testing relative to prompts that were not correlated with growth and developmental expectations for the student cohort.. Mrs. Dillon stated that particular issue was related to testing security.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Old Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Messore provided an update relating to the District Strategic Communication Plan. The next School Committee meeting, scheduled for November 13, 2014, will be held at the Barrington Middle School when an update will be given on the Barrington Middle School building project. Work continues on strategies to best communicate effectively to the public on the progress of the building project.

Mr. Messore presented updated statistics on Barrington High School students' SAT participation and scores, average ACT scores for the last five years in comparison to state and national scores, and statistics on scores and participation in AP courses.

Old Business from School Committee

No old business from the School Committee was presented at this time.

New Business from Superintendent and Staff

Mr. Tarro reported no concerns at this time with regard to the school budget. Budget items that continue to be monitored include legal fees, student services, and utilities.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the monthly expenditures for September in the amount of \$3,683,732.06. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Tarro and Mrs. Brody attended the recent meeting coordinated by the Rhode Island Association of School Committees (RIASC) regarding pension litigation involving a number of municipalities. The meeting included discussion on working with local municipalities to consolidate efforts to avoid unnecessary costs, in particular legal fees, and the potential role each district will play in the lawsuit. Ms. Sara Rapport of Whelan, Kinder & Siket LLP has been retained as legal counsel for Barrington Public Schools, and will request a 60-day response delay so that the district can decide on its position after the Administration has an opportunity to consult with Town Manager Peter DeAngelis to learn about the municipal perspective on the litigation.

Mr. Tarro reported that the Town of Barrington included Barrington Public Schools in a Request for Proposal

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for preschool-Kindergarten playground landscape architect services. The Town Council awarded the bid to the Gifford Design Group, Inc., of Cumberland, Rhode Island, on September 2, 2014. The architect fees and initial project costs for the School Department, at an approximate cost of \$2,000, will be funded from the School Improvement Capital Reserve Fund. Mr. Guida requested that the awarded bid be confirmed as the lowest, qualified, evaluated bidder. Following discussion,

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to confirm the preschool-Kindergarten playground landscape architect services bid award to the Gifford Design Group, Inc. of Cumberland, Rhode Island, for an initial scope amount of \$2,000, contingent upon confirmation that the bid was awarded to the lowest, qualified, evaluated bidder. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the recommendation of the Superintendent with respect to the appointment of Jennifer Theroux, PH, Elementary Enrichment Specialist/Instructional Coach.

Mrs. Brody asked about the transition process for Mrs. Theroux from her current position teaching Grade 4 at Hampden Meadows to her new position at Primrose Hill School. Mr. Guida asked if there would be an opportunity for Mrs. Theroux to provide coaching district wide. Mr. Messor confirmed that Mrs. Theroux will help provide coaching throughout the district, and noted that Mrs. Theroux will remain in her current teaching position at Hampden Meadows School through the end of the quarter.

The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to accept the leave of absence for Stacy Cruz, HM, Teacher Assistant. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mr. Messor requested that the agenda item for approval of a request for home schooling be tabled to the next School Committee meeting.

New Business from School Committee

Mrs. Mary Roberts and Mrs. Abigail Williams, Barrington Middle School (BMS) Grade 6 Aqua Cluster Teachers, requested approval for an overnight field trip on May 15-16, 2015 to Philadelphia for Grade 6 Aqua Cluster students. Mrs. Roberts provided a comprehensive overview of all trip logistics. The Committee agreed to hear public comment at this time regarding the field trip proposal. Mrs. Pamela Lauria, parent of students in Grade 7 and Grade 9, neither of whom were in the Aqua Cluster, expressed her support for the field trip but questioned equity and asked that the Committee consider allowing all students the opportunity to participate. Mrs. Debby Perugini, parent of two Grade 8 students who were not in Aqua Cluster, also asked the Committee to consider a solution where all students have these same field trip opportunities. Mrs. Jennifer Sapolsky, mother of three students, added that there is a lack of communication with new parents on clusters and their differences, and asked why parent chaperones are not allowed on these field trips. Mr. Jeffrey Bennett, whose son is in the Aqua Cluster, hoped that the cluster is not being penalized for taking these field trips. Mrs. Perugini suggested that teachers interested in going on these trips be split among the clusters as a solution for all students to attend. Mr. Messor noted that BMS Principal Dr. Andrew Anderson is engaged in ongoing discussions at the building level relative to equity with field trip opportunities for students. Mr. Guida and Mrs. Brody requested that the Administration keep the School Committee informed

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with updates about the progress of the discussions at BMS on this topic. Following discussion,

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the field trip on May 15-16, 2015 to Philadelphia for Barrington Middle School Grade 6 Aqua Cluster. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

The School Committee Policy on Notification of Rights under the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) for Elementary and Secondary Schools was presented and read aloud for a first read by the Committee. The policy will be presented for its second reading and approval at the next Committee meeting.

Decision Items

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Discussion Future Agenda Items

Mr. Messore reported that the next regular School Committee meeting on November 13, 2014 at Barrington Middle School will feature a status report on the Barrington Middle School building project, an update on the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC) report, and a report on the K-12 Guidance curriculum and Barrington High School Naviance data.

Announcements

Mr. Messore and Mr. Tarro will attend the District Management Council's Leadership Development Meeting, *Boosting Performance Cost-Effectively: Achievement Value Analysis* on November 6-7, 2014 in Boston.

Mrs. Dillon, along with Mrs. Katie Miller, Director of Technology, and several district educators will attend the Rhode Island Department of Education's Innovation Powered by Technology Conference on October 25, 2014 in Providence. Mrs. Brody and Mr. Guida will also attend the conference.

General Public Discussion and Information

No issues were raised at this time.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:27 p.m. and go in to Executive Session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws Section 42-46-5(a)(3) for discussion relative to school buildings security issues. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the Executive Session at 9:40 p.m. and to seal the minutes. The motion passed 3-0 with Mrs. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.

Mrs. Brody noted that no votes were taken in Executive Session.

Dr. Shea moved and Mr. Guida seconded to adjourn the regular meeting at 9:42 p.m. The motion passed 3-0 with Ms. Brody, Mr. Guida, and Dr. Shea voting in the affirmative for the motion.